

Joseph J. Chella
Principal

Hassan Robinson
Assistant Principal

The Bennet Star



February 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Well, winter is clearly upon us! We hope you are all staying safe through this extremely cold and snowy weather. This year is moving right along. As a school community, we have been working hard to make every student's experience at Bennet Academy both educationally enriching and enjoyable. We would like to thank you for your partnership in this effort and for playing such an important role in our school community.

On a different note, we want to thank all that attended our second Family Activity Movie Night. It was a fun event and we appreciate your participation. Our next Family Activity Night is our third annual Staff vs. Students' Basketball Game. The game is going to be held here at Bennet in the Cone Gym on April 23. There will be no cost for this family fun event (more info. to follow). More Family Activity Night events will be shared in upcoming newsletters and Communication Folder flyers. We are also looking forward to our next Morning Mingle with Mr. Robinson and myself on the morning of March 11 (more info. to follow). We hope to see many of you at these fun upcoming events.

We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the academic efforts of our Bennet students. Students have completely adapted and excelled as sixth graders. We commend our students and their family support systems for the commitment and effort we see daily in our classrooms.

Lastly, here at Bennet, we continue to focus on maintaining a positive learning environment for all members of the Bennet community. Students continue to strive with our STARS program. Not only are students recognized through raffles and STARS Award recognitions, but students that are recognized for STARS Awards also get to enjoy our STARS Game Room. This will allow students, in addition to how students are already acknowledged, to spend 45 minutes in the STARS Game Room to play board games, the Wii, a 10-1 activity table and/or spend time playing in the Rec Gym. We are very excited about the success of our STARS Program. We ask that you continue to talk with your child at home about how he or she can be a positive contributor to our school climate.

Again, thank you for your consistent support in making Bennet such a great place to learn! Our staff and students are very lucky to have your partnership!

Sincerely,

Joe Chella

Joe Chella, Principal

PRINCIPAL HOURS

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

February 18

March 4

April 1

May 6 and 20

June 3



ABSENT LINE

Please call the 24 hour absent telephone line every time your child is absent from school:

860-647-3583

Please leave your child's name, home base teacher, team, and the reason for the absence.
Thank you!

THINK POSITIVELY
EXERCISE DAILY
EAT HEALTHY
WORK HARD
STAY STRONG
WORRY LESS
DANCE MORE
LOVE OFTEN
BE HAPPY

Sixth Grade Physical and Immunizations

All sixth grade students are required to have a physical and proper immunizations by June 1, 2015 on file in the Bennet Academy Health Office. The blue state physical forms must be dated after January 2014 to June of 2015. The State of Connecticut also requires that each student have a Tdap booster after age 11; two varicellas; and a meningococcal vaccine. Failure to provide documentation of the proper health requirements may result in your student not being allowed to enter grade 7 at Illing Middle School. If you have any questions, please call and speak with a school nurse at 860-647-3582. Thank you.

Bennet Academy S.T.A.R.S. Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who received a S.T.A.R.S. Award at Bennet Academy recently: Alexis Barr, Jared Holbrook, Jessica Sadlowski, Jayshawn Figueroa, Gabby Nieves-Rivera, Abbigayle Cross, Kayla Alibrio, Lawrence Pelletier, Sam Mushinski, Leah Parago, Janiyah Leggett, Alyssa Tuohey, John Macon, Justin Keller, Christina Yang, Jorge Serrano, Walter Adamy, Emma Wakelin, Harrison Blum, Nathan Earle, Julia Giangreco, Camryn Anderson, Ben Pitt, Marianna Espada, Avant White, Arieliz Rivera, Denise Rivera, Maggie Sikand, Noah Milvae, Shania Benson, Joshua Robinson, Liam North, Alexandria McDowell.



Their pictures are highlighted on our Bennet Academy television monitor located outside the main office. We are proud of our students for the positive choices they are making at Bennet Academy.

Physical Education News

We are in full swing with our fitness unit! All students are learning about the benefits of fitness on personal success in and out of the classroom, as well as its importance to overall wellness!

Students have been actively tracking their own progress as they workout in the fitness room using cardio, weight machines, and independent exercises. All students are working hard as they have been practicing effective training techniques, learned to monitor their heart rates, and calculate calories burned. They have also been working cooperatively through partner training, by encouraging and helping their classmates reach their fitness goal and show improvement. Keep up the EXCELLENT work!



Bennet Academy Art Class

Mrs. Guzzi's classes have just finished painting with acrylics on canvass boards. Each student was required to make tints & shades, as well as create blends & mixes. They were also assessed on their picture plane composition and the proportion of the animal. Explaining and discussing which element or principle of art they used the most in their picture was a requirement to complete this project's rubric.

Mrs. Reimels' classes have been working on a project combining a 2-point perspective box with an object that is shaded to look 3 dimensional using shades of gray. Blended color pencils were used to create a background and objects were added to inform the viewer of the setting. An explanation of which principal or element of art was used the most was needed to complete the rubric for this project.



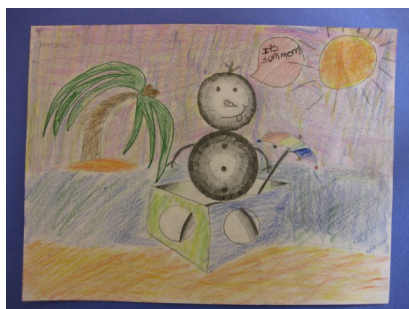
Paige G: acrylic painting



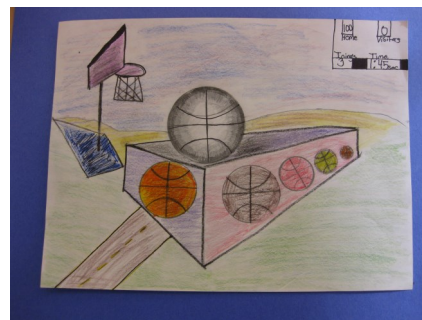
Alexandria S.: acrylic painting



Abigail T.: acrylic painting



Vivian H. 2 point perspective & shading



Jesse M. 2 point perspective & shading.



Students in after-school activities will board late buses at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

SAFETY

REMINDER

TO PARENTS

Please be sure to have your child exit and enter your car on the sidewalk side of the street. You may also drop off your child in the staff parking lot on School Street.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mr. Kleiner,
Band Director

Mrs. Browning,
Orchestra
Director

Mrs. Sandefer, Choral
Director and
Classroom Music

Mr. Marino,
Classroom Music



Music Notes

Musical Notes

Congratulations to all of our Bennet Academy musicians in Band, Orchestra and Chorus for an Outstanding Winter Concert! Students can be proud of their performance as well as an outstanding display of Concert Etiquette.

Concerts are an opportunity for students to share with parents, family and friends all of their hard work. **We hope you will join our students as they present their Townwide Concerts in April. These concerts are an excellent opportunity for students and parents to see the transformation that takes place from the beginning elementary student to the accomplished High School Musician.**

Student Recognition:

Many students in Band and Orchestra are now developing good practice routines and remembering to hand in their practice logs. Practice logs are 10% of the grade for Band and Orchestra. For every 100 minutes of practice, students will earn a star on the chart in their music room. Once students reach 1000 minutes they will receive a certificate and a silver star to display on their lanyard. Students will receive recognition for their efforts at morning rehearsals.

In the month of January, Band and Orchestra students were awarded the silver star award for reaching 1000 minutes of practice. The music department would like to congratulate the following students for their efforts:



Pictured left to right: Abigail DiLoretto, Nick Alessi, Connor D'Arcy, Deborah Weatherly, Julia Giangreco, Camron Butler and Sam Muschinski

Bennet Proudly Recognizes Students for Their Outstanding Practice Record

General Music

Students in general music continue to develop their skills on the keyboard. Students in General Music as well as our instrumental students have been focusing on rhythm and counting with a steady beat. They have also been working on note reading and learning about different clefs.

Ensemble Rehearsals

Students have been assigned ensembles based on their team. Please help your child to remember their instrument and music on rehearsal days.

DAY A: ORCHESTRA for teams Truth, Ruby Bridges, Mandela and Clementé

DAY B: ORCHESTRA for teams Angelou, Lincoln, and Escalanté

DAY C: BAND for teams Angelou, Ruby Bridges, Truth and Lincoln

DAY D: BAND for teams Mandela, Clementé and Escalanté

DAY E: CHORUS for teams Clementé, Angelou and Mandela

DAY F: CHORUS for teams Lincoln, Truth, Ruby Bridges and Escalanté



Callen Wallace - Viola



Margaret Sikand - Violin



Gabrielle Gajewski - Violin



Saher Waseem - Viola



Brianna Robles - Violin



Wesley Gear – Alto Sax

Future Problem Solvers



Future Problem Solving

Enhancing Human Potential:

Cybernetic Exoskeletons, Gene Therapy and More...



In 2010, Raytheon-Sarcos [released](#) the XOS 2. The XOS 2 suit allows users to [lift](#) heavy objects at an actual-to-perceived-weight ratio of 17:1. The suit also required 50% less energy than the XOS, while also weighing 10% less than its predecessor. Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/military-exoskeletons-2014-8?op=1#ixzz3QKVaplag>

Students in the Future Problem Solving Program (FPS) are currently beginning their fourth problem for the school year. The topic is Enhancing Human Potential. Students will be competing against other Future Problem Solving teams across the state of Connecticut as they strive to achieve the most comprehensive and creative solutions for this important societal issue.

On February 11, FPS students will travel to North Haven High School to attend an academic seminar hosted by the Future Problem Solving Program of Connecticut. At the Seminar, four professors from Southern Connecticut State University will discuss different aspects of Enhancing Human Potential.

This is a great opportunity for Future Problem Solving students because it will better prepare them to tackle their next topic: Enhancing Human Potential. For years, humans have sought to enhance their potential through the use of supplements, personal trainers, speed-enhancing sports equipment, and technologies for body and brain. In the future, humans will be offered even more ways to enhance their potential in unprecedented ways: cybernetic body parts, technologically advanced sports equipment, and brain/computer interfaces. Students are currently reading academic journal articles about exoskeletons, genetic therapy, password pills, bionic body parts and neural implants. These are just some of the futuristic topics FPS students are discussing and devising solutions for at Bennet Academy.

To contact the FPS coach, Samantha Randazzo, call 860-647-3571 ext 70576 or email: samranda@mpspride.org Please visit fpspofct.org or fpspi.org for more information about the Future Problem Solving Program.

Bennet Counseling Corner

The pillar of the month in February is: RESPECT

- Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule
- Be tolerant and accepting of differences
- Use good manners, not bad language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone
- Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements



Team Angelou

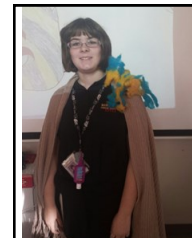
Greetings from Team Angelou!

It's hard to believe we are at the end of January, and half way through the school year! Team Angelou has been celebrating many students who have been showing improvement in their academics, behavior and maturity! We are making progress! Team Angelou is very proud of our very own **Mrs. Silagi** for being voted Teacher of the Month! We appreciate her commitment to our students, always going above and beyond. Congratulations Mrs. Silagi! Our Language Arts classes have been working on Expository Writing. Students have spent most of their school years writing narratives. This is a big shift for them. It lends itself nicely to all the research projects they will be working on. We are off to a great start!



Social Studies: Mrs. Gibson

Students did an outstanding job in creating their own cultures in their Social Studies classes. The presentations were fun to watch. (See pictures) Currently, we are finishing up a unit on Immigration. Students have learned a lot about why people emigrate and the immigration process. We view our country as compilation of many cultures from countries all over the world. Parents, grandparents and family members, share with your students where their ancestors came from before they lived in America. I'm sure it's a wonderful story that they will love to hear. Especially based on the information they have now gleaned from our unit.



Math: Mrs. Silagi

Our mathematicians continue to work most days of the week on the computer programs - Fast Math or Fraction Nation. They are online programs that help our mathematicians become more fluent in their facts (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing). Please be informed that both of these online programs can be accessed at home. As we move into creating and evaluating mathematical expressions with decimals, please allow your child to help you figure out your next grocery bill by allowing them to estimate your purchases the next time you go shopping. In addition, in class we continue to have great high quality math "debates" by focusing on the Common Core Math Practice of justifying math arguments. Students are using vocabulary and reasoning to have polite conversations as to whether they agree or disagree with one another about their answers to difficult math problems. They also continue to solve multi-step math problems by use of written explanations, math talks, and class conversations in an effort to demonstrate how they figured out the answers. Lastly, please continue to help your child practice their math facts at home. Once your child is fluent with mathematical facts, the problems will become much easier!

Science: Mr. Ortiz

Physical Science: Elements, Compounds and Mixtures. Students have been exposed to the periodic table and learned how to read the information on the element square. They will explain the characteristics of elements and give examples of these characteristics as well as classify elements as metals, nonmetals, and metalloids using the elements characteristics and properties. We will continue to discuss how elements make up compounds and how the chemical process combines two or more elements. Students will explain the properties of mixtures and how mixtures can be separated. Finally, Students were assigned an element project that requires them to complete a research guide, and then use the guide to construct a poster board about their assigned element. Students will be given the opportunity to share what they have learned about their assigned element by presenting their findings with their classmates.

The salmon eggs have been delivered and they are doing great. We will have the salmon eggs for about 100 days; until the eggs hatch. At this stage the salmon will be at the Alevin stage of their life cycle. We are scheduled to release the Alevins in Mid-May and will be taking a field trip to Salmon River Park in Colchester to explore the salmon's natural habitat and to release them into the river.

Progress reports came out the first week in February. Please go over them with your child. Celebrate the progress, and discuss where improvements can be made. Feel free to call us if you have any questions.

Team Angelou Teachers: Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Ortiz, Mrs. Silagi and Miss Blum

Team Mandela

We want all of you to know that your children have been an absolute joy to teach. They are bright, innovative, and extremely engaging. We are so proud of their efforts and their accomplishments and want to thank you for the opportunity to be a part of their lives. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please let us know. As a reminder:



- Please remember to check your child's planner daily. This is a great way of discovering what your child is learning in class, a way to check homework assignments for the following day, or a fantastic way to send and receive communication with your child's teachers.
- Red Communication Folders are sent home every Tuesday. Please remember to review all notices coming home and to sign off on parent check sheet inside.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Hug-O-Grams Fund Raiser - February 13th
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - March 17th, 18th & 19th
 - Trip to the Bushnell to see "The Giver" - May 13th
 - Salmon Release Field Trip - May 21st

Language Arts:

Reading (Ms. Swanbon): Students have just finished biography reports on a person of color for black history month. Students had a great time completing their Wheaties boxes and are anxious for parents to see the display of their work! Team Mandela has started their second unit on Social Injustices. The first part of this is on the Civil Rights Movement. We have explored the causes of prejudice & discrimination, examined events of the 50's & 60's and investigated Martin Luther King Jr.'s beliefs on non-violence and ways to bring about change in a peaceful manner. Currently, we are examining "The Children's March" and how this event motivated President John F. Kennedy to give his Civil Rights Speech, and eventually pass a law ending segregation. Students will analyze Kennedy's speech and reflect upon "How Far We Have Come" since the 60's. Students have really enjoyed the unit so far, and have a better understanding of where the country was at that time through actual video footage of events and thoughts of people who lived in the south at that time. Exploring Primary source documents is also enabling students to form their own opinions about the world during the Civil Rights Movement.

Writing (Mrs. Matlock): In writing class, students continue to progress through the traits of writing using a writer's workshop model. So far, we have enjoyed learning about the traits. We have explored in depth, Ideas, Voice, Presentation and are currently working on the very important trait of Organization. Our writing is growing and developing and students are really showing a love of writing. They are eager to come to class each day and write and share! They understand the importance of organizing their writing so that it makes sense and are even able to critique and question other writing pieces. We love writing!

Vocabulary (Mr. Reisine): The students are continuing to study civil rights vocabulary as we enter Black History month. They are creating and presenting Google Slide presentations about the civil rights pioneers they have been studying in Social studies, and how our words connect with their persons.

Team Mandela continued

Science: Mrs. Matlock: In science class, students have just wrapped up our Matter Unit and are beginning the next unit of study on Weather and Climate. We continue to observe our salmon eggs in our classroom tank. Last week, students were excited as we watched the "Eyed Eggs" transform into the next stage of the Atlantic Salmon's life cycle called the "Alevin" stage. Students were eager to check the progress of the eggs as they hatched daily. It was an awesome experience and we are more excited than ever to watch the rest of our Eyed Eggs become Alevin!

Mathematics: Mr. Reisine: We have concluded our integers and coordinate plane unit, and will be studying rates, ratios, and unit rates.

Social Studies: Ms. Swanbon:

We are finishing up the 5 Themes of Geography and the aspects of culture this week and will continue to integrate these themes into our units on Canada and Latin America in the future. We are starting to explore Canada and will be learning about the Underground Railroad. Many people do not know that Canada played an integral part in helping escaped slaves find their way to freedom in the "Promised Land." Students will explore the Emancipation Proclamation, the Fugitive Slave Act and the 13th and 15th Amendments. They will be discovering the vast relationship between the United States and Canada, how Canada's physical characteristics were significant in allowing slaves to remain hidden, thus evading capture, and why Canada offered those immigrating to the country a wealth of opportunities. Students will continue to explore Canada's past and present over the next month and discover the many difference and similarities the country has with our own.



Team Clementé

Team Clemente continues to build lasting friendships and exemplify caring and responsible behavior.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Shakira Perry ~ November Student of the Month

Alexis Barr ~ December Student of the Month

Chamari Ennis-Beckford ~ January Student of the Month

STAR Student Recognition:

Erika DiPietro, Avant White, Arieliz Rivera, Denise Rivera, Shania Benson, Harrison Blum, Sam Mushinski, Alexis Barr

Language Arts News:

Team Clemente students are now transitioning into informational writing, also known as expository. The focus here is to organize information about a topic, be clear, and give specific examples and details. They are using writing strategies learned in the first narrative unit, to build on the details in the second unit. Most students are remembering this from 5th grade (yippee!) and finding the organization to be easier because of the prior knowledge. These students are able to focus on adding interesting supporting details, such as Golden Bricks.

Students continue to read independently and happily create book projects each month. Students in Mrs. Sullivan's class are doing a research project that involves African American Biographies. More on this to come!



An example of one student's Book Collage. Each picture chosen represents a character, idea, or event from the book. If this project is chosen, students must also submit a written summary of their thought process behind the photos.



This is an example of the tri-fold project. This student decided to use her creativity and create 3 different boards, that include all the important elements of a fiction story.

Below is a sample of our writing...

Love

Do you know what love is? Love is powerful; it could do many wonderful things. It could bring people together or change the world. It is exciting to think about what a difference love makes in our world. Where would the world be without love? Love is amazing. When I see people happy in love, I know it's because they've found their prince charming or princess.

Love is powerful. When someone falls in love it could change their life. But they could get hurt though if they broke up. But most likely, if they are able to work through any problems, they get married and live happily with a family. I love when I see children with their mom and dad or when you hear a newborn baby. They are signs that a new family or life has began. My mom is in love with my step father Seth. She is always so happy to see him and misses him when he is away. When you love someone, you miss them when they are away, you always want to be with them. It is hard to say good bye. This is what love is.

Love brings people together. Love means to be one forever with a special person or to be partners for life. Love brings new lives into the world and to bring families together. When people get married they make promises to each other to risk their lives for each other. Love makes the world better because people find their match. One time I said to my mom, "Love is the most powerful thing." Love makes the world a happier place. This is what love does.

The world without love would be filled with hatred. Without love, no one would be happy and there would probably be no people. But if there were people, they would be mean and nasty to each other and not get along and we would live in misery. It is amazing that some people don't get married or have kids in my opinion that is sad. To live your life without love is to live in sadness. This is what the world is without love.

Do you have a true love? If you're lucky enough to say "yes" then you understand what love is and what it can do for your world. You've probably never thought about a world without this amazing life-force. This is my love story and I hope it is helpful for you. Love is powerful. Spread it generously.

BY Alexis Barr

Team Clementé Continued

Social Studies News From Mrs. Sullivan

In Social Studies classes, students have been busy learning about “place” (human and physical characteristics). They created collages and made “mystery postcards” after researching a state or country of their choice. The students are applying the research skills taught by Mr. Trungadi and Mrs. Sullivan in Social Studies classes. Students have also begun a mini-unit on the Civil Rights Movement and read nonfiction articles about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will have the opportunity to watch the Children’s March and read other articles about brave young African American students that attended all white schools in 1957 (the Little Rock Nine). Below are some examples of the great work they have been doing in class. Students continue to strengthen their map skills as well. We have worked with more thematic maps and will soon be working with more physical maps to get an understanding of how Geography influences the way people live. A unit of Canada will start in the near future.

In Mrs. Melesko’s Science class

Students have been participating in numerous labs where they are asked to: identify a problem statement/question, form a hypothesis, design a procedure to test the hypothesis, perform the experiment they designed while recording data in both a table and written format, and create graphs to display their data. They are also formulating conclusions that state whether or not their hypothesis was supported by the data they collected and making suggestions for future research. Watch for formal lab reports coming home and ask your child about his/her favorite lab this week. We will be starting our new unit on Weather and Climate. A new science textbook titled: Weather and Climate will be issued to your child and I will be collecting the Matter text.

Every Friday is “Invention Friday!” Students have been integrating what they have learned about technology, literacy, reading comprehension and science to create a report on an invention of their choice. The students spent the last two Friday classes researching, paraphrasing information, and citing sources on their invention. This assignment can be accessed at home through Google Chrome “Google Classroom.”

If you have internet access at home, your child can also visit www.scilinks.org and type in the textbook code found in each chapter of our text. The websites provided explore the concepts we are covering in the classroom.

Is your child enthusiastic about science? Are you looking for projects he/she can do at home? Try visiting:

<http://www.miniscience.com/SciProjIntro.asp>. This website has project suggestions and gives you a level of difficulty. Have fun!

Visit www.Schooltube.com and ask your child to sing “The Water Cycle Song.” Students spent this last week studying how heat/energy is gained and lost during changes of state. “The Water Cycle Song” helped them to remember the phases and how weather is affected.

Bennet’s Science Night will be March 4th. The district Science Fair will be March 21st. Hope to see you there!

Math ~ with Ms. Paluso:

Students continue utilizing Fastt Math, an online tutoring programs to help master their multiplication facts, while others are developing computational fluency with fractions by using Fraction Nation. Both of these are web-based Scholastic programs, which means they can be accessed at home. We continue to focus on the Common Core Math Practice of justifying math arguments. Students are using vocabulary and reasoning to have a polite ‘debate’ over possible answers to difficult math problems. They use written explanations as well as class conversations to show how they know they are right.

Students thought they were getting a break from fractions and decimals in our Integers unit. We began by understanding that integers are positive and negative numbers, what absolute value is and how it can be helpful in solving mathematical problems, and comparing negative numbers. This is a tricky concept, but students are focused and prepared for the challenge.

Wouldn’t you know, fractions and decimals have come back to bite in our integers unit. Luckily, students are applying their knowledge of converting fractions to decimals so they can easily compare and order integers.

Keeping our 6th grade goals in mind, we will continue to increase fluency in all operations involving decimals as well as dividing with whole number and decimals. Students are given a review of 6th grade skills on Monday, and it’s due on Thursdays.

Team Escalanté

Science – Mrs. Fioriello

During the month of January, the students wrapped up the element unit. The element projects were fantastic! I know the students enjoyed working on and presenting their element. They consider themselves experts. We also worked on compounds. The classes should be able to identify different everyday compounds that we come in contact with. The students built candy compounds using gum drops in class. We're currently working on mixtures. They have to be able to explain the differences between a solution and mixture. The students will complete the sugar cube lab in class this week. Their goal is to see how quickly they can get the sugar cube to dissolve in the solvent using various materials in the classroom.

We have also been busy collecting data on our salmon. I have pulled the salmon eggs out of the tank several times for the students to observe. They're so excited to see the changes inside the egg. The students will estimate when they think the salmon will hatch using the data they have collected over the past two months.

Writing

The classes have been busy working on the fourth trait of writing- Voice. My goal for this unit is for the students to understand voice and use it to make their writing meaningful to the reader. The four areas we have worked on are: Establishing a tone, conveying a purpose, making connections to the audience, and taking risks to create voice. The classes have done lots of mini writing activities to help them create their voice in writing. They're also working on an informational topic of their choice to research and present to their classmates. A writing checklist and rubric will come home very soon.

Math – Mrs. Riley

We have finally completed Unit 2 in math and are busy working on Unit 3. Unit 3 includes integers, coordinate plane, and absolute value. We have been busy identifying the position of integers on a horizontal or vertical number line. We took this experience and moved on to identifying the position of points on a coordinate plane. Students have been plotting points on a grid based on ordered pairs, identifying the quadrant of certain points and using their knowledge of geometry to identify the vertices of rectangles, as well as the reflection of a shape on a coordinate grid. You might continue seeing fraction and decimal practice for homework over the next few weeks. Please work with your child as much as you can with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals.

English

We are already moving onto list #7 in vocabulary. Your child has learned a total of 72 new words since the beginning of 6th grade. I will send a list of all 72 words home - challenge your student to explain, act out, draw a picture or write a story using as many vocabulary words as they can remember! We are also continuing our work on identifying parts of speech.



Check your child's planner daily and be on the look-out for the weekly

Communications Folder (Sent home on Tuesday)

Team Lincoln

Language Arts/Reading

As Team Lincoln moves forward toward Spring...O.K. Let's try to think positive, we continue to review grammar, figurative language and indulge in some great forms of poetry and writing. We continue to read various genres of books in reading classes and discuss the various mood, themes, and authors purpose for writing the stories. We continue to prepare for the NWEA tests and math and reading assessments. Our students are making progress honing their writing skills. We are also looking forward to some new experiences with literature. Team Lincoln has been having great discussions regarding famous and not so prevalent African Americans in the world. A future study of positive role models, in our American culture of diverse nationalities, will be explored. Project Oceanology continues to ride the waves with lots of great experiences for our Lincoln students. The art work and the political messages interpreted from Norman Rockwell seem even more timely than ever. Lincoln team students will continue this semester to explore his works to better understand our cultural history.

Social Studies

Team Lincoln began the journey through Canada, taking notes in their class journals, using encyclopedias and chromebooks. Each of the students are in the process of creating individual, customized postcards and posters. They will be writing about living in the country of Canada after the classes have gained a better understanding of this impressive neighbor to the North. Parents/guardians will soon see what a terrific product each student created. A wall of travel postcards will be displayed in the Team Lincoln halls.

Later our students will take a destination journey through each province. Each student will have an expense account and various site choices to decide upon. All provinces and territories will be visited, but they must keep within the given budget. This is a great review and reinforcement of the students' math skills. Students will be allowed to research information using their social studies books, and both school and town libraries, chrome books and home computers. It is an exciting adventure to learn about our world.

Math

In math, we are completing our unit on decimals. Most recently students have been focusing on multiplication and division of fractions and decimals with an emphasis on the relationship between numerals in fraction form as they compare to numerals in decimal form. As we conclude the unit, students will be working on a performance task that shows their understanding of the fraction/decimal relationship.

Next we will be tackling the concept of integers and the coordinate plane. Most students are familiar with positive coordinate numbers, so we already have a good base of information. We will be discussing negative numbers that relate to temperature and altitude, opposite numbers on a number line and values of numbers as we move left on the number line. We will be locating points found on the four quadrants of a coordinate grid and understanding the rational numbers' absolute value related to its distance from 0 on the number line. As always we will be connecting these concepts to real world applications.

Encore Math field trip has been substituted for the Plays which unfortunately was cancelled due to inclement weather. Permission slips for this performance have been passed out. They are due Friday, February 27th. There is NO ADDITIONAL COST for this trip. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Science

The second round of spring Project O experiences will be starting in March. We will paired with Westbrook Middle School and we will have four experiences; one at Bennet and three off site. On 3/12 Westbrook will be here at Bennet, 3/26 Bennet travels to Westbrook Middle, 5/21 we meet Westbrook in Old Lyme and board Envirolab 2, and we finish at Project O headquarters in Groton Long Point on 6/3. All of these trips are free and require a bag lunch with exception of the experience here at Bennet, our students may purchase a lunch.

Our next unit of study will be weather and we will meld that with an introduction to ecology. Most of our salmon have hatched and this year we have had a very low mortality rate of about 3 eggs. Our release date will be in May at the Salmon River in Colchester.

Team Truth

Team Truth is proud to recognize Elijah McKenzie as our student of the month for January. Congratulations Elijah. We would also like to congratulate Ella Ryerson as Bennet's Student Spotlight recipient for the month of January.

We are half way through the second marking period and progress notes have been sent home. If you have not received your child's progress note, please let us know. In addition it would be helpful if you continued to monitor your child's planner.

Our Chamber Theatre trip has been rescheduled for April 8th. Permission slips will be coming home soon. If you have already paid, there will be no additional charge however we do need a new signed permission slip.

One of the goals we have set this year for all sixth grade students is to reach automaticity with their basic multiplication and division facts. Having mastered basic facts will make it easier to tackle more difficult math problems as we move forward. According to the Common Core standards, students should have their basic multiplication and division facts mastered by the end of third grade. There are many helpful sites that can offer students the practice that they need to achieve their goal. The only way to create fluency with basic facts is through repetition and practice. Please offer opportunities for that practice to occur so our students can achieve success in math. Our goal is to have 95% of our students reach mastery by the end of April.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

Team Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges' February Newsletter

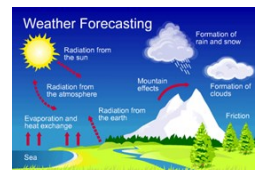
In Ms. Broidis' social studies class students are analyzing Martin Luther King, Jr. quotes with a partner. Students will compare two historical events, Emmitt Till and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Bombing.



In Ms. Stevenson's math class students finished a decimal unit and are beginning positive and negative integers. Next we will move on to working with graphing in the coordinate plane. Every month, students are assigned a problem of the month that is to be completed by a given due date.

RULES FOR INTEGERS (SIGNED NUMBERS)				
ADDITION			SUBTRACTION	
+	and	+	ADD THE OPPOSITE!	
-	and	-	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> (Change the subtrahend sign to an addition sign. Change the sign of the second number. Now follow the Addition rules!) </div>	
+	and	-		
-	and	+		
MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION				
+	and	+	+	=
-	and	-	+	=
+	and	-	-	=
-	and	+	-	=

In Mr. Weyrauch's science class, students have begun our Weather and Climate unit. Students will learn how to read a weather map and use forecasting tools. Our Salmon tank is full of 198 Salmon eggs (we lost 2).



In language arts, students have been reading level-appropriate non-fiction texts, utilizing graphic organizers, and then writing journal responses. Students are learning about theme and finding evidence in their texts to support their ideas. Students are editing and revising their essays for organization, conventions and word choice. Students should be reading 30 minutes nightly and responding in their journals.



Team Ruby Bridges' is looking forward to Parent - Teacher Conferences on March 17, 18, 19.



Team Ruby Bridges' Student of the Month for January



Alexandria McDowell

Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy
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Joseph J. Chella, Principal

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We're on the web:
<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov>

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Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3595



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Terri Smith
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